**Setting up of Food Processing Units in Assam**

564. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up food processing units in the State of Assam;

(b) if so, the location-wise details thereof during the last three years and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of funds granted by Government to set up food processing industries in the State during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) The Government does not set up Food Processing Industries on its own. Approval of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries is also not required for starting a new FPI unit. However, Government has implemented a scheme to provide financial assistance for technology upgradation/ establishment/modernization of the food processing industries. Rate of assistance is 25% of the project cost in general areas subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakh and 33.33% of the project cost in difficult areas including Assam subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakh. During the last three years an amount of Rs. 570.72 lakh has been released to different FPI units in Assam.

**Setting up of Regional Packing Centres in Kerala**

565. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has approached the Centre for assistance and support for setting up three Regional Packing Centres at Ernakulam, Pathanamthitta and Malappuram;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) A proposal has been received from food, Civil Supplies and Consumer